

## DIVISION OF UTILITY AND RAILROAD SAFETY

The Division of Utility and Railroad Safety assists the Commission in administering three safety programs: Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety, Railroad Safety and Underground Utility Damage Prevention.

The Pipeline Safety Section of the Division helps ensure the safe operation of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, through inspections of facilities and new constructions, review of safety records and programs, and investigation of incidents. In 2017, the Division's pipeline safety activities involved 7 natural gas companies and 3 municipal owned systems with a total of 21,455 miles of pipelines serving 1,268,489 customers, 51 master-metered systems, 66 propane systems and 5 hazardous liquid pipeline companies with a total of 1,145 miles of pipelines.

### Summary of 2017 Activities

Gas Safety Inspection Man-days Conducted	1,338
Hazardous Liquid Safety Inspection Man-days Conducted	67
Number of Counts of Probable Violations Cited	1,293
Pipeline Accidents Investigated	54
Pipeline Safety Trainings Conducted	44
Reports filed	6

The Rail Safety Section of the Division in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration, helps ensure the safe operation of jurisdictional railroads by conducting inspections of tracks, signals, highway rail grade crossings, railroad operations, shipment of hazardous materials by rail, motive power and equipment and investigations of certain accidents and citizen complaints. The Division's inspections involve more than 3,000 miles of track, over 4,000 highway and private grade crossings, thousands of rolling stock, which also include tank cars, and intermodal containers and 69 yard facilities.

### Summary of 2017 Activities

Number of Hazmat Units <sup>1</sup> Inspected	4,786
Number of Track Units <sup>2</sup> Inspected	10,073
Number of Locomotive and Car Units <sup>3</sup> Inspected	80,675
Number of Operating Practice Units <sup>4</sup> Inspected	1,829
Number of Signal/Grade Crossing <sup>5</sup> Units Inspected	858
Number of Defects Noted	8,656
Number of Violations Cited	50
Number of Accidents/NRC Incidents Investigated	62
Number of Complaints Investigated	24

The Damage Prevention Section of the Division investigates all reports of "probable violations" of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act ("Act") and on a monthly basis presents its findings and recommendations to an Advisory Committee appointed by the Commission in accordance with the Act. This Committee then makes enforcement recommendations to the Commission. The Division provides free training relative to the Act and safe digging practices to excavators, utilities and others, disseminates damage prevention educational material and promotes partnership among the stakeholders to further underground utility damage prevention in Virginia.

### Summary of 2017 Activities

Underground Utility Damage Reports Investigated	1,212
Number of Individuals Having Received Damage Prevention Training	1,262
Number of Damage Prevention Educational Material Disseminated	139,087
Number of Damage Prevention Field Audits Conducted	337

---

<sup>1</sup> Each hazmat record review along with each visual inspection of a tank car, bulk/non-bulk package and/or freight container is considered a hazmat unit.

<sup>2</sup> Each mile of track, record, crossing at grade, among other things, is considered a track unit.

<sup>3</sup> Each locomotive, car, motive power equipment record, among other things, is considered a unit.

<sup>4</sup> Each location where operations are or may occur such as switchyards, field offices, yard offices, trains, yard crew locations and dispatching are considered an operating practice unit.

<sup>5</sup> Each signal/switch/grade crossing record review along with each visual inspection of a signal/grade crossing component is considered a signal/grade crossing unit.